

R E M A R K S

Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration of this application as amended are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15, 17-25, 39-48 and 50 are pending in this application. Claims 16, 26-38, 49 and 51 are cancelled. Claims 3, 6-12, 14, 15 and 22-24 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1, 17, 18, 39, 44, 45, 47 and 50 are amended. Unless an argument is made below in support of the patentability of each of these claims over cited prior art in view of changes to the claim, the changes do not relate to patentability.

ELECTION/RESTRICTION

As a result of the earlier restriction and election of species requirements, claims 3, 6-12, 14, 15, 22-24, directed to non-elected embodiments, have been withdrawn from consideration. In view of changes to claim 1 discussed below, claim 1 should be allowable and therefore it is respectfully submitted that claims 3, 6-12, 14, 15 and 22-24 be considered for rejoinder (see MPEP 821.04).

DRAWINGS

The drawings are objected to on the grounds that locking means on both the engagement portions is not shown.

Submitted herewith is proposed revised Fig. 7A wherein part

of the locking means is now shown on each engagement portion.

In view of the foregoing, removal of the Examiner's objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Further, replacement sheets of drawings for all of the originally filed drawings are hereby submitted.

SPECIFICATION

The specification is amended as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the objection to the disclosure. The changes are supported by the original specification or drawings, and therefore do not introduce new matter into the application.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 18, 39, 44 and 47 are amended to remove the informalities noted by the Examiner and thereby overcome the objection to these claims. The subject matter of claim 51, modified as suggested by the Examiner, has been incorporated into claim 50.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 2, 13, 18, 21 and 39-41 are rejected as being anticipated by Warner (USP 1,020,002). Claim 50 is rejected as being anticipated by Mills (US 2004/0061335). Claim 4 is rejected as being unpatentable over Warner in view of Martin (USP

5,351,996). Claims 5, 19, 20, 42, 43, 45, 46 and 48 are rejected as being unpatentable over Warner in view of Mills. Claim 47 is rejected as being unpatentable over Warner in view of Mills and further in view of Martin. Claim 25 is rejected as being unpatentable over Warner. Claims 16, 17, 44, 49 and 51 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 16. Independent claim 45 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 49. Independent claim 50 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 51.

In view of the changes to claims 1, 45 and 50 to include allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 13, 18-21, 25, 39-43, 45-48 and 50 have been overcome and should be removed.

AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE FEE

No fee is believed to be due for entry of this amendment. Nevertheless, if any fees are determined to be required for entry of this Amendment, authorization is hereby given to charge any such fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1378.

INTERVIEW REQUEST

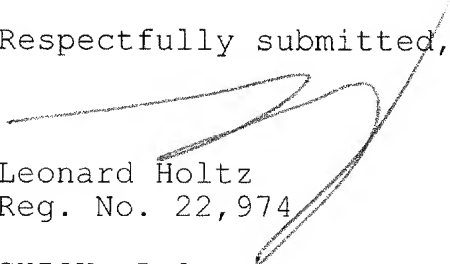
Applicant hereby respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned upon his review of the Amendment to ascertain whether it is possible to expedite the prosecution of this application.

* * * * *

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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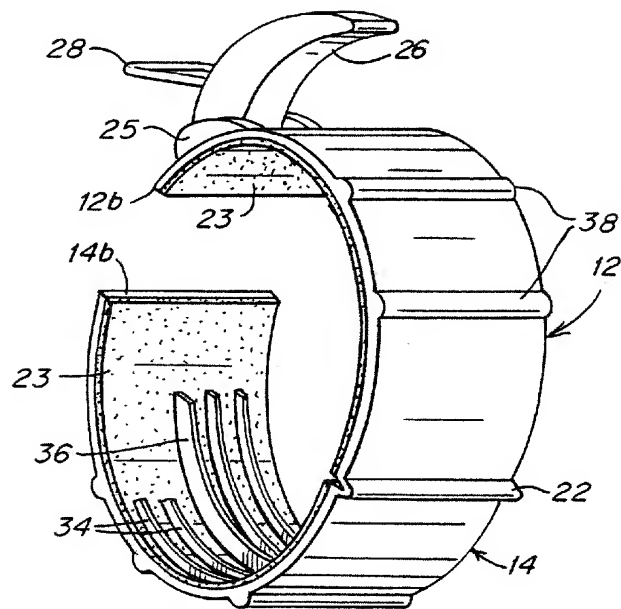


Fig. 3A

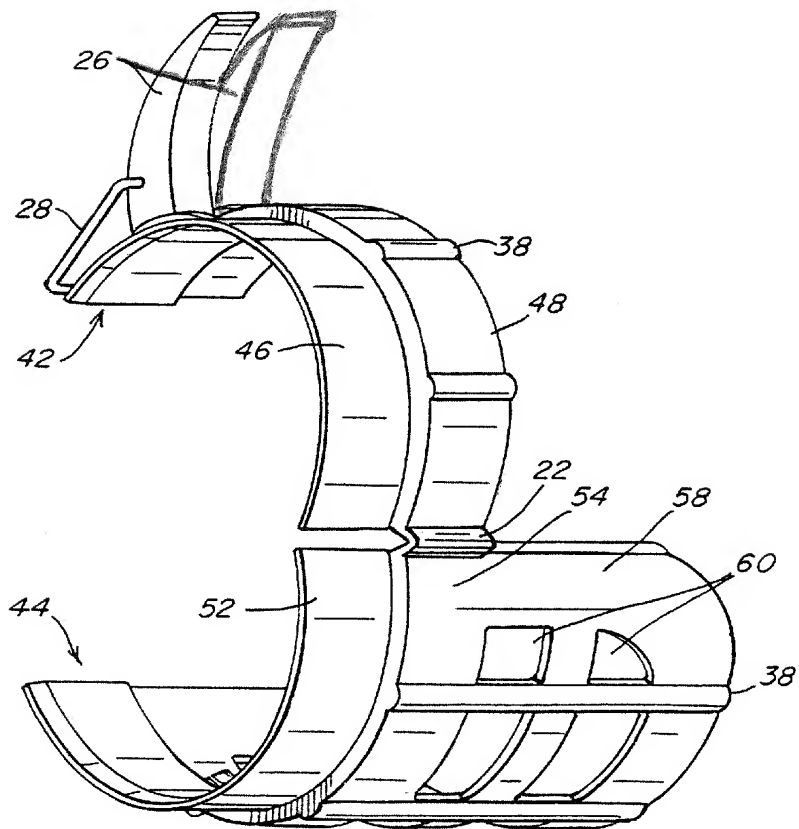


Fig. 7A